



June 7, 2004

**Energy Secretary Abraham Announces
Environmental Management Consolidated
Business Center in Cincinnati, Ohio**
*Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative Receives
\$250,000 Economic Development Grant*

CINCINNATI, OHIO – Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham today announced the selection of the greater Cincinnati area as the site for the Department of Energy's (DOE) national Consolidated Business Center (CBC) for DOE's Environmental Management program. Joined by Rep. Rob Portman, the Secretary stated that the Cincinnati region will serve as a central clearinghouse for a wide range of activities supporting DOE's national environmental cleanup mission from financial management and contracting to human resources and information resource management.

The Secretary also presented the Southern Ohio Development Initiative (SODI) with a \$250,000 Economic Development Grant. SODI is the local Community Re-use Organization for the communities surrounding DOE's Portsmouth, Ohio site.

"This Consolidated Business Center will combine essential business and technical support services in one location to serve DOE's environmental management efforts all over the country," Secretary Abraham said. "In short, it will allow us to do our job better, more efficiently, and at greater savings to the taxpayers."

Cincinnati was chosen for the CBC site after studying more than 300 metropolitan statistical areas around the United States. Criteria examined included available flights and airline accessibility, housing costs, local taxes, and quality of life factors including crime rates and the availability of quality medical services.

Ohio has a distinguished history producing materials for our nation's nuclear weapons program. That work, at sites like Ashtabula, Mound, Portsmouth and Fernald – as well as other locations around the country – helped win both World War II and the Cold War.

The Energy Department is charged with cleaning up the legacy of that nuclear weapons work.

The location to house the CBC is under review. DOE anticipates

having the center operational within the next nine months.

The Economic Development Grant awarded to SODI today will enhance the skills of the regional work force by offering early education assistance and job retraining to workers at DOE's Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant as the nation transitions to a post-Cold War future. SODI is also investigating ways to maintain the future viability of the plant as an industrial site.

With this grant, DOE has committed nearly \$15 million over the last seven years for community transition activities with SODI, which has preserved and created jobs and built several state-of-the-art industrial parks. To date, through SODI's efforts, a total of approximately 2,000 jobs have been created or retained. An additional 2,000 jobs are expected to be created by the end of FY 2006.

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